

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 241914Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6987

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES

REF: STATE 172095

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR WEISS

1. IN SUM, THE EFFECT IN THE BAHAMAS WILL BE MARGINAL
TO NON-EXISTENT.

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CUBA, THE BAHAMAS ARE ONLY
MARGINALLY INTERESTED IN THE EVENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN,
EVEN LESS SO WITH REGARD TO THE REMAINDER OF LATIN AMERICA,
AND PERCEIVE CURRENT ISSUES IN U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS
AS PROBLEMS FOR US, NOT FOR THEM. INSOFAR AS SOME OF THE
SORTS OF ISSUES WHICH REFTEL IDENTIFIES (E.G. A BREAKDOWN
IN PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS) CONVEY A GENERAL
IMPRESSION ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE EQUITY AND MORALITY OF
U. S. FOREIGN POLICY, THEY CAN COLOR BAHAMIAN THINKING
ABOUT THE U. S. GENERALLY, BUT ANY FINAL BAHAMIAN JUDGMENT
WOULD REFLECT THE CONTENT OF OUR SPECIFIC BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. OFFHAND I CAN THINK OF ONLY TWO CURRENT ISSUES WHICH
MAY HAVE APPLICABILITY TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE AREA
WHICH WOULD RESONATE IN THE BAHAMAS. THE FIRST IS HOW WE
HANDLE FISHING RIGHTS ELSEWHERE SINCE, AS YOU KNOW, THIS
IS NOW A HOT ISSUE HERE. THE SECOND IS HOW WE HANDLE
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OTHER BASE RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH AS THAT

CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION WITH REGARD TO ANGUILLA AND THE POSSIBLE USE OF DOG ISLAND. THE BAHAMIANS ARE NOT LIKELY TO FAIL TO NOTE WHATEVER QUID WE OFFER OR WHATEVER OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WE MAKE FOR THE USE OF OTHER BASE FACILITIES (AND THIS INCIDENTALLY APPLIES NOT JUST TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, BUT TO THE SERIES OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD).

4. FINALLY, THE BAHAMAS ALREADY HAS TAKEN STEPS TO RESTORE ITS OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA, ANTICIPATING THE U. S. WOULD BE DOING SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT EXPECTS THE OAS SANCTIONS TO BE DISMANTLED AND RECIPROCAL MOVES BETWEEN U. S. AND CUBA. UNLESS CUBA AND OTHER "THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES" IN THE HEMISPHERE IMPINGE MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY ON THE BAHAMAS' ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ITS ECONOMIC VIABILITY, MOST PARTICULARLY THROUGH TOURISM, THE IMPACT HERE WHEN WHAT WAS ANTICIPATED BECOMES REALITY IS LIKELY TO BE SMALL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NASSAU01192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-1108
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750725/aaaaawsi.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 172095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, BF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006